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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **HARAGUCHI, Manabu**

Group Art Unit: **3654**

Serial No.: **09/926,029**

Examiner: **JILLIONS, JOHN M.**

Filed: **December 20, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1295

For: **SOLID PREPARATION PACKAGING APPARATUS AND PACKAGING PAPER
ROLL FOR SOLID PREPARATION**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 26, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **December 9, 2004**, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim rejections discussed below.

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description request.

The Examiner has specifically complained that the recitation in claim 8, lines 9-10, "more flexible portion ... said recesses" is seen to contain new matter, unsupported by the disclosure as originally filed since the disclosure is silent as to the "flexible" nature of the wall portion.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. The recesses forming the thinner, more flexible portion of the wall are shown as item 21a in Fig. 8, and are supported on page 22, line 24 to page 23, line 6 of the specification. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the skin is

thinner in the recess 21a then is between the recesses 21a. Thus, it follows that the thinner skin area is more flexible than the thicker skin area.

Therefore, the 35 USC §112, first paragraph, rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 8-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Watanabe or Kanai in view of Haraguchi et al., all of record, or as unpatentable over Haraguchi et al. in view of Watanabe or Kanai.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In Applicant's previous responses of September 21, 2004 and May 26, 2004, it was argued:

Such packaging paper, when it is wound around on a shaft member 16 produces a condition wherein the compressing force added to the end of the shaft member will be increased. In order to accommodate such condition, the notches 21A, which are disposed circumferentially about the inside wall of the roll are provided with a thin portion defined by leaving the outer portion of each engaged portion uncut and the inner portion cut, and removed, as shown in Fig. 8 of the drawings.

By means of this configuration, the thin portion is able to easily bend and has greater flexibility as compared with the uncut portion so that it is better able to absorb the aforementioned compressing force. Additionally, when the packaging paper is wound around the shaft member, a swelled or expanded condition is produced in the region containing the folded edges of the paper. Thus, the flexible thin portion of the respective notches is able, due to such flexibility, to prevent or restrain the swell of the concerned end of the paper roll.

The claimed notch configuration is benefitted because, when the outside surface of the notch forming the thin portion remains uncut, the inner and outer peripheries of the paper roll are maintained circular along the region of the paper folds as opposed to being uneven were the wall closing the respective notches not flexible.

Claim 8 recites that each recess forms a thinner, more flexible portion of the wall than portions of the wall between at least two of the recesses.

None of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests this feature, and the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, claims 8-9 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

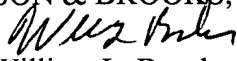
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,029
Response to Office Action dated December 9, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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